

this region is, in my experience, a sedentary form. This occurrence of a yellow instead of the normal black eye-wattle in *P. barbatus* would seem to be of evolutionary significance and the possibility that it is either indicative of a mutation or that it represents an ancestral condition and is an atavism due to gene interaction, should be considered. Other pycnonotids exhibiting the same type of anomaly have apparently been trapped in the same geographical area on previous occasions.

The bulbul was captured during the course of bird-ringing activities by Garth, Robin and Guy Johnson. Mr. R. A. Reed submitted it to Mr. O. P. M. Prozesky of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria whom I wish to thank for passing it to me for examination.

References:

- ¹Markus, M. B. (in press). Bulbuls from the Zone of Contact between *Pycnonotus barbatus layardi* Gurney, 1879 and *Pycnonotus nigricans* (Vieillot) in the Transvaal. *Ostrich*.
²Markus, M. B. (in press). The Birds of the Pretoria District. *Biologica*.

The Ten-year Scientific Index

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A new race of sunbird from West Africa

by WILLIAM SERLE

Received 20th February, 1963

In a paper (*Ibis* 92 [1950]: 627) I mentioned an adult male *Chalcomitra rubescens* (Vieillot) from Bamenda which differed from the other examples of a series of adult males of this species collected in British Cameroons in that it lacked metallic colouring on the throat and breast.

At Mamfe on 10th March 1953, I collected a similar male, one of two adult birds which seemed to be a pair.

It appears that there exists in the north-western corner of the range of the species a well-marked race for which I propose the name

Chalcomitra rubescens crossensis, subsp. nov.

Description:— Male similar to male *Chalcomitra rubescens rubescens* (Vieillot), but lacking metallic colouring on the throat and breast, those parts being dark brown concolorous with the rest of the underparts. The female, to judge from the single very worn specimen obtained, does not differ from the female *C. r. rubescens*.

Distribution:— The lowland forest in the vicinity of Mamfe on the Cross River, and the wooded savanna country to the west of Bamenda, both of which are localities in former British Cameroons and now in the Federal Republic of Cameroun.

Type:— In the British Museum. Adult male, Mamfe, 5° 45' N, 9° 20' E., altitude 400 feet, Federal Republic of Cameroun, 10th March 1953. Collected by Dr. William Serle. Collector's No. N.1614. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1963. 12. 1.

Measurements of type:— Wing 63; culmen 19; tail 38; tarsus 16 mm.

Other measurements and soft parts:— An adult male collected on 26th May 1948, to the west of Bamenda, 5° 55' N., 10° 10' E., at 4,500 feet. Wing 66; culmen 20; tail 43; tarsus 17 mm. *Soft parts:*— Iris brown; bill and feet black.

Remarks:— The central mass of the Bamenda highlands appears to form the eastern boundary of the range of the new race, for an adult male in typical *C. r. rubescens* plumage was collected at Barnale, 5° 58' N., 10° 25' E., 3,600 feet, only twenty miles in a direct line from Bamenda, but on the eastern side of the watershed near the headwaters of the Nun River. Another specimen collected on the northern foothills of the Bamenda highlands near Fungom, 6° 32' N., 10° 12' E., 2,500 feet, cannot be assigned to its race for it is a female. The southern and western limits of the new race are not known. A long series of males collected in the vicinity of Kumba, 4° 40' N., 9° 25' E., are all typical *C. r. rubescens*.

The Cardinal Quelea in Nyasaland

by D. N. MANSFIELD

Received 15th March, 1963

On 22nd January, 1963 I found three nests of the Cardinal Quelea *Quelea cardinalis* (Hartlaub), on the outskirts of the town of Lilongwe, Nyasaland. The nests, each of which contained two eggs, were within a few feet of each other and about five feet above the ground, in tall grass among trees in abandoned cultivation. Cape Bishops *Euplectes capensis* (Linnaeus) and Black-winged Red Bishops *E. hordeaceus* (Linnaeus) were also present.

Two red-headed (breeding dress) male queleas were seen. One of them was collected; also a female, a clutch of eggs and a nest. These have been examined by C. W. Benson, who compared the male and female with four males in breeding dress and one female from the Luangwa Valley, Northern Rhodesia, and two males in breeding dress and one female from the Rukwa Valley, south-western Tanganyika, loaned by M. P. Stuart Irwin, from the National Museum, Bulawayo. No difference in colour was noted, except that the male from Lilongwe differs slightly from the other males in having the red on the head a trifle brighter, extending rather further onto the chest, and the belly more markedly yellowish.

Wing measurements in mm. are as follows:— males, Rukwa, 58, 60; Luangwa, 58, 59, 60, 60; Lilongwe, 61; females, Rukwa, 58; Luangwa, 58; Lilongwe, 59.

The eggs, which were fresh, and measure approximately 17 x 12, 17 x 12.5 mm., are very similar in size and colour to the description of two in a clutch of three from the Luangwa Valley (Benson & Pitman, 1956). The nest, like that described in the same reference, is an elliptical ball, but much larger, comparable dimensions in mm. being:— height 150; width 100; width of entrance 30; bottom of entrance 80 from bottom of nest and top 40 from top of nest. Unlike the Luangwa nest, it is not suspended at each side to a bush, but to a grass-stem, probably of a glabrous form of *Panicum maximum*. It is made mostly of the fragments of the panicles of this same species, a few seeds still attached making this identification certain. These grass identifications are by A. Angus, of the Northern Rhodesia Agricultural Department.